THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) On 24.11.1995 BCCL has made a reference to BIFR proposing to declare the company as sick. However, no decision has so far been taken by BIFR to declare BCCL as sick company.

(c) The actual losses suffered by BCCL (before adjustment to Coal Price Regulation Account) during the past 3 years are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Amount
1992-93	370.26
1993-94	341.87
1994-95	560.70

The main reasons for losses in BCCL are:

(i) Unremunerative price both for raw coking coal as well as washed coal.

(ii) Heavy interest burden due to adverse debt equity ratio.

(iii) Surplus manpower.

(iv) Large proportion of the production in BCCL is obtained from under ground mines and due to difficult conditions the underground mines have very high cost of production.

(d) Following steps have been taken to bring down losses of BCCL:

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus manpower.

(ii) Mechanisation of coal loading in underground mines to improve production and productivity.

(iii) Improvement in availability and utilisation of heavy earth moving machinery by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and rehabilitation of equipment.

(iv) Improving capacity utilisation by providing for replacement equipment in open cast mines where the equipme have outlived their useful life and minimising idle hours through geari up routine and preventive mai tenance.

(v) Minimising controllable cost fixing ceiling for quality deductio demurrage and unloading penalty.

(vi) Deployment of labour on overtir and on Sundays and holidays.

Achievements of MPLADS

700. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDD SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR

Will the Minister of PLANNIN AND PROGRAMME IMPL MENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of assets have actua come up in the country out of the to money sent to the District Collectors a DMs since the inauguration of t MPLADS;

(b) the reasons for the very slow pa in which the scheme is bei implemented; and

(c) what steps will be taken to see th the assets under this scheme come fast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF PLANNING AN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIO (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA (a) A total of Rs.1157.8 crores has be released to the DCs/DMs since t launching of MPLAD Scheme. All t works taken up under MPLADS lead creation of durable assets. As per t partial information received from t Collectors, an amount of Rs.164.4 cror has actually been spent as on 31.7.95

(b) There have been several reaso for the slow pace of implementation.

1. In 1994-95 the funds were releas from November '94 to March '95.

2. Some of the Members of Parliame gave their recommendations late.

3. In some of the States due to the operation of the Code of Conduct after the announcement of elections no new works could be taken up.

4. Being a new scheme, it needed time to stabilise.

(c) General instructions have already been issued to the Collectors to expedite the implementation of the scheme. However, whenever delay in any specific cases is brought to the notice of the Deptt. of Programme Implementation, Govt. of India, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned Collector/ State Govt. for necessary action. Further clarifications on some of the specific issues on which doubts had been raised have been recently issued to the Collectors with a view to expedite the pace of implementation.

Target for Export of Steel and Iron

701. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) the target fixed for the export of steel and iron during 1995-96.

(b) the actual achievement made in that direction;

(c) the steps taken to increase the export so that the target is achieved; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A target of Rs. 1885 crores has been fixed by Engineering Export Promotion Council for export of iron and steel during the year 1995-96.

(b) During the period April '95-August '95 exports of iron and steel has been Rs.850 crores (Approx.)

(c) and (d) Promotion of exports has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures are taken to boost exports including iron and steel under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licences, Duty Drawback Scheme and exemption under 80 HHC of Income Tax Act. Market Development Assistant is also provided to Engineering Export Promotion Council. In addition a new scheme called Engineering Products Export (Replenishment of iron & steel Intermediates) Scheme has been notified by the Government on 1.3.1995.

नीम उत्पादों के पेटेंट किये जाने पर अमरीका और विकसित देशों के साथ मतभेद

702. **श्री सोमपालः** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या नीम उत्पादों को पेटेंट कराने के विषय पर भारत का अमरीका और कुछ विकसित देशों के साथ गंभीर मतभेद है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि विकसित देशों द्वारा कृषि फसलों एवं वृक्षों की बहुत सी प्रजातियों को विकसित करने के लिए भारत सहित सभी उष्ण कटि-बंधीय देशों के जीव द्रव्यों का प्रयोग किया गया है और ये विकसित देश अब इन प्रजातियों के बीजों के दाम भी वसूलना चाहते हैं तथा उनके उत्पादन और पुनः प्रसंस्करण में रुकावट डालकर रायल्टी भी चाहते हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या भारत ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार अनुदान के समक्ष अपनी बात रखी है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस पर विश्व व्यापार संगठन से संबंधित विकसित तथा अविकसित देशों की क्या-क्या प्रतिक्रियाएं हैं; और

(च) भारत सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या निर्णय लिया है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी॰ चिदम्बरम): (क) और (ख) पेटेन्ट अधिनियम, 1970 में जड़ी-बूटियों, औषधीय पौधों, आदि को पेटेंट करने की अनुमति नहीं है। कतिपय विदेशी कंपनियों ने नीम के अर्क हेतु प्रक्रिया पेटेंट प्राप्त करने के लिए भारतीय पेटेंट कार्यालय में आवेदन-पत्र दाखिल किए हैं। हालांकि औषधियों तथा दवाओं को पेटेंट नहीं किया